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Volume 11 Issue 9 2014



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Using The New Rhetoric

By Linda Dumont

I live in a family where some members are faced with "barriers to success" and where sometimes we have difficulty "making ends meet." Sometimes we are "living on the brink" of having the power cut off when the bill gets too far overdue, and sometimes one or another family member has to report to a social worker, who has a list of conditions that must be met before a cheque can be issued.

I am one of those irresponsible people Harper refers to, who for whatever reason, did not put aside enough money for old age, and who did not pay enough Canada pension in my life up to this point to make a significant pension for old age. Unfortunately for too many years when I "should" have been saving up for old age, I was unable to. I was struggling to meet the challenges of living in the present and struggling to keep the family housed and fed while facing obstacles to economic security in an out of kilter society.

This means that instead of looking forward to retirement as a time when I will be able to sit at home and become bored with my own company, or spend time at those drop-ins for seniors, I will have to continue working until I am 90 or

I am no longer able to perform my job due to illness or death (I went to Sears and they have a 77 year old employee?). Or as the telephone solicitor, who was selling life insurance put it, I can apply for seniors' welfare. I think he was referring to the supplement that seniors who have barriers to success qualify for. That said, once the general public catches on to the new non labelling rhetoric, the meaning becomes clear, and a whole new set of non labelling words has to be put into place.

I can think of a few – failure to thrive financially sounds good, as does surviving with too little money, or even better thriving with little money to spend-sounds more positive. With good enough word usage we could make it sound like a desirable condition to be faced with barriers to success from having too little income while struggling to maintain our equilibrium in a society that is off balance.

Unfortunately whatever way we say it, over time the meaning is clear. The persons who are doing whatever they are doing, even those using active verbs to describe it, are still facing the economic challenge of surviving with too little money and too many bills.

The First Winter Storm

By Ernie Ballandine

The first winter storm of the season
Usually causes cute cuddly creatures cruising and seeking warm places
Animals turn colour, birds fly south, and we dress for a reason
The wise creatures have changed to appropriate outer wear
We all try to cope with the first winter storm.
We put on all season tires, muffs to keep warm ears
Dressing for the weather seems to be the norm.
The first winter storm that arrives after Indian summer is not the world's end
But this year's first winter storm only caused me the death of one friend.

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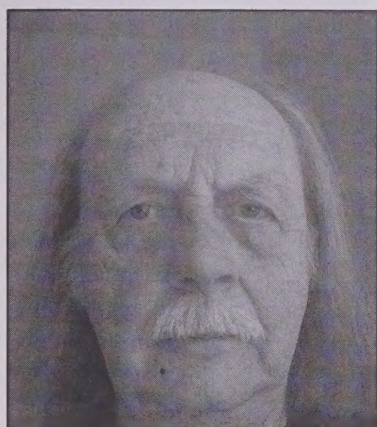
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ON PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Parsing the Prime Minister's Rhetoric



By Allan Sheppard

Schoolyard wisdom tells us sticks and stones may break our bones, but names will never hurt us. Mature wisdom knows that names can cut and bruise as deeply as harder weapons, and the wounds they inflict may heal more slowly, if they heal at all. Such is the insight that comes out of recent research by the Center for Community Change (CCC), a U.S.-based advocate for economic justice.

In a report called *Messaging for Economic Justice* (tinyurl.com/ld2dfxa), the CCC analyses interviews with front-line poverty workers who shared "their thoughts on poverty's origins, winning words for public debate and favoured solutions." The study's conclusions seem blindingly obvious: the words and rhetoric we use to make our cases against economic injustice can do our cause more harm than good, especially with those we think we might help.

Equally obvious is an implied criticism: those of us who sympathize with and advocate for family, friends and neighbours who do not share fairly in the benefits of our economic system often hurt or harm those whom we would support by the way we speak our truths and express our concerns. I recognize that error in myself and find it in the words and writings of others.

The plain and painful truth is this: friends, family, and neighbours whom we identify as "poor," "in poverty," or "living below the poverty line," for example, generally do not wish to see themselves as any of those things. Which means they do not recognize us, or anyone who speaks or writes as we do on our bad days, as someone who speaks for them, understands them, or truly cares what happens

to them and their aspirations.

You may feel, as I do, that there is nothing to be ashamed of in poverty, nothing wrong with being poor. But the reality is that such attitudes, though well-meaning, are naïve in a society—more commonly referred to now as an economy or a market—that regards "poor" and "poverty" as pejorative labels to be avoided and denied, even when the condition they describe is due to no fault of one's own. Argue as we may that there are other values than economic ones, that is not the way most of us see and judge ourselves and each other.

One might prefer, as I do, to use social values to examine and judge, but it is futile to fight that battle without the support and acceptance of those who benefit least from things as they are. We will not get that support if we refer to them using labels they consider negative, critical, and judgemental. The report's authors offer a checklist of words to avoid and use for best results when talking about the effect of the economy on many of us. Some examples:

Instead of people who are "poor," "working poor," and "low income," speak of those who "can't make ends meet," are "living on the brink," or are "working to provide for family." (That is, do not use labelling nouns, use action verbs.) Instead of "workers," speak and write about "people, mothers, fathers, servers, cooks, nurses, etc." Instead of urging supporters to "fight poverty" or talking about a "war on poverty" or "casualties of poverty" talk about "barriers to success" and "obstacles to economic stability." Use words that put those whom we would help among the majority, instead of boxing them in an unwelcome minority.

At a time when there is much talk about the growing gap between the wealthy and the rest of us, stop talking about "inequality" and talk about a society or an economy that is "off balance" or "out of kilter."

I know: focusing on language and rhetoric in that way seems so crass, so obvious, so manipulative. It's almost embarrassing to be caught thinking and communicating (or seeming to pretend to communicate) in that way. But understand this: governments and corporate entities that benefit from things as they are feel no embarrassment at all about manipulating us through language.

Our beloved prime minister, for example:

Stephen Harper is ideologically opposed, as only a true believer can be, to the notion of updating and upgrading Canada's pension system to meet current and anticipated realities for many Canadians. He and his cabinet ministers say they are reluctant to do what obviously needs to be done because any increase in

pension benefits would have to be paid for with "payroll taxes" that would jeopardize a fragile economy. Maclean's Magazine columnist John Geddes gives a good explanation of Harper's intentions here: Harper on CPP: it's about individual responsibility (tinyurl.com/m83d9tm).

"It's not really about economics for Mr. Harper, it's about ideology."

After discounting the personal experiences of many Canadians and observing, against ample evidence from (among others) provincial governments, Mr. Harper insists "that many Canadians, between their own savings and their company pensions, are 'in very good financial shape for their retirement,'" (Geddes is drawing from a Global TV interview with Harper here.)

Harper then adds a zinger that he could only contemplate through the narrowest of ideological blinkers: "There 'is a ('worrisome,' he says) group of people who have reasonably affluent lifestyles but just don't save. They have the opportunity to do so, so I don't think the challenge is to raise CPP taxes on everybody. It's to try and figure out how to get the people who actually need to save to do the saving they need to do."

I do not doubt there are Canadians living "reasonably affluent lifestyles" who could (or, as our paternalistic prime minister clearly believes, should) save for retirement but do not, for a variety of reasons (some perhaps good, some not). And I know with absolute certainty that there are many (one-third of a nation, more or less?) who live modest, often desperate lifestyles in which they struggle from pay cheque to pay cheque trying to meet basic necessities for themselves, their children, and sometimes even parents or other relatives with nothing significant left to put away for pensions or other more imminent necessities.

Mr. Harper does not, seemingly even cannot, concede that such people—such mothers, fathers, children, seniors, teaching aides, nursing aides, retail "associates, etc."—exist in Canada. Instead, he preaches, pontificates, obfuscates about personal responsibility, implying that personal weakness and failure—and, we must assume, nothing else, certainly not government or corporate inertia or hostility—stands between responsible, worthy Canadians, and a good life: except their own fault or faults.

And he gets away with it. Why? Because few of us want to admit to personal irresponsibility, just as we resist being labelled poor or living in poverty. We would rather do without than admit to those kinds of personal failure.

I do not have all the answers to this "blame-the-victim" strategy that seems to be working so well for the Harper government. All I have is a long list of questions that, along with your questions and others, might lead to a beneficial and workable approach, given goodwill and good discussion and analysis.

But Mr. Harper and his enablers do not want to discuss such questions. They do not concede that such questions exist or that they would be valid if they did exist.

Ideology rules: It's your fault. You alone are responsible. There is no other conceivable explanation.

Sticks and stones may break my bones. But (ideological) words can (and do) hurt me. And mine. And (with respect) you and yours too.

Face Fears To Become Free



By Angelique Branston

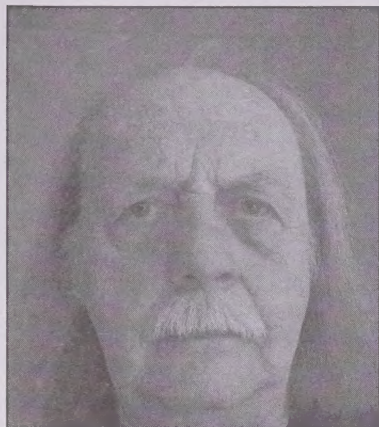
"Fear is the little death that brings total obliteration. I will face my fear and allow it to pass over me and through me. I will look into myself and see that the fear is gone."

This is a quote from the novel *Dune* written by Frank Herbert. Fear is a natural human emotion that sometimes keeps us from great harm. But too often fear almost becomes a living entity that if we allow it to overtake us causes us to do some of the most horrendous acts against humanity and nature imaginable. It is fear that is the dominant emotion behind racism. Fear causes people to act like a flock of chickens and surround the one person who is hurt (if we stand up against the flock we may have to join the one being hurt or excluded from the rest). It was fear that held me prisoner for two years to a husband who abused me.

Often the fear of not being believed is the reason why so many stay silent about what they are going through. It is only in facing our fears that we can become free of them

COMMENTARY

Alberta Government Publication Ban On Names Of Children Who Die In Care



By Allan Sheppard

Was it the influence of a new minister? A young minister? One who comes from a minority group that has suffered from prejudice and discrimination? Was it the departure of a premier whose sense of personal entitlement was as boundless as her sense of the entitlements of the Albertans she presumed to serve was narrow and insensitive? Or the presence of an interim replacement who has been around long enough to know when and how to cut losses and grab at straws?

Was it a desperate attempt to

change the channel and dial back the pressure on a government overwhelmed by fresh disasters largely of its own making? Was it simple capitulation by a tired, feckless, hopeless gathering of potential losers reading the writing on the wall and hoping for something, anything, to win some goodwill?

Was it a simple, honest recognition that it was the right thing to do and that it was past time to do it. All of the above? None of the above? Whatever the reasons, a July 24, 2014 statement by Alberta's freshly minted Minister of Human Services, Manmeet Bhullar, was as welcome as it was an overdue. Minister Bhullar lifted a long-standing ban on publishing the names of children who die in government-mandated foster care



Human Services Minister Manmeet S. Bhullar, Government of Alberta photo

No one, not even it seems the government, knows how many children have died in care. Estimates have gone as high as 700 from all causes, natural and otherwise.

The government had argued for secrecy in the interest of privacy and confidentiality. Children are generally apprehended into care against the wishes of parents and families because they are deemed to be in danger or in need of care that parents and families cannot provide. To name them in any circumstances, including death, might expose them and theirs to community disapproval, censure, or worse. Or so the argument went. Inevitably, what the government argued was necessary to protect the privacy of victims seemed most often to protect the government and its agents against transparency and accountability.

Parents and families who felt that their children were apprehended unjustly and who felt betrayed when their children died as a consequence saw the publication ban as a gag order intended to silence them and shield the government and those responsible to children in care from criticism and accountability. Their arguments finally prevailed and, in a remarkably forthright statement, Minister Bhullar explained why.

"I believe we must empower those who are closest to these children to speak or not to speak," he said. "It is their right as human beings. If we do not have the right to speak up

about justice as individuals then we have taken away too much."

He added, "I believe it is a basic right of each and every one of us to express grief publicly. This decision is not one for the government to make; it is one for those closest to the child to make." Bhullar challenged the media to use information that will now be available to them responsibly. "I believe the media will act in an ethical and thoughtful manner when reporting on this type of story. No doubt editors and reporters will exercise due diligence, check the facts and make the right decision when it comes to deciding if a story is in the public interest."

Bhullar also noted that parents and families who do not want themselves or their children to be identified can apply to have a publication ban established in their case. "There is a legal process currently in place for any person, including families with children in care to apply for a publication ban with the courts. Families will need to use this existing process until the quicker, simpler process envisioned by the Act can be refined through the work of the Standing Committee on Families and Communities to make it easier for families to apply. I am committed to supporting their work."

We must hope that work will be done quickly and well.

Where's The Interest?

By Timothy Wild

About twenty-five years ago, my friend Brent and I went backpacking around Europe armed with boundless energy, limited cash, a Eurail pass and the book - Let's Go Europe. However, unlike many of the people we met on the various legs of our trip, who had basked in the welcoming sun of the Mediterranean, we stayed mostly in northern Europe, particularly Scandinavia. We had a great time. While Finland was a bit dour, we both had absolutely no complaints about Sweden, Denmark and Norway. The variety of political cultures was interesting, the people were friendly and the food and drink were excellent. That being said, there was a literal price to pay and it was rather more expensive in that part of the continent than in many of the southern spots. So expensive, in fact, that we decided if we were going to see some of the other parts of Europe we had to get back to Germany where we had free accommodation and we could save up for a while.

We took a train from Stockholm

to Copenhagen and then later an overnight train to Dortmund, where we had a place to stay in a nearby village. In order to get into the apartment we needed to phone an acquaintance of my father's before he left for a couple of days - he was expecting us to come a few days later - so he could give us the key and we could sleep. (Overnight trains do not lend themselves to adequate rest!). The problem was that I didn't have the deutschmark for the phone. All I had was a combination of Danish and Swedish currency and travellers' cheques. But I needed to make that call. So I begged.

In my broken German I explained that I had foreign money but the bank was closed. I even tried to show the commuters in the train station the various Scandinavian currencies to help bolster the face value of my argument. But most people just looked through me as they quickly passed by and didn't even seem take the time to determine the so-called legitimacy of my earnest plea. Eventually, thankfully, someone did give me the requisite amount of German

money and I was able to make the phone call. I needed those coins to help me meet my immediate and basic needs, and begging was the price that I paid for it. But it was an absolutely humiliating experience. I think about the dependency of those fifteen minutes quite a lot.

Sadly, some people are in this position for considerably more than fifteen minutes and their financial needs cause them to be beholden on an ongoing basis to the vagaries of fringe financial institutions, including payday loan operations and pawn shops. Sure, it is not begging but it is certainly grounded in financial dependence. Recently, Momentum released a report - the Real Cost of Payday Lending - that provides a sobering picture of how much it actually costs people to use these various services. Many individuals accessing the financial products of these institutions find themselves in a cycle of dependency and end up paying "interest rates that, when annualized, top 400%". As noted in the report "There are 15 return customers or rollover loans for every new payday loan customer, which

further perpetuates the cycle of debt." The document also illustrates the fact that when people used the payday loan places "only 28% said it was for an unexpected expense". For the most part, it is to meet the basic costs of living. As mentioned it was traumatic enough for me to have to beg once to help meet a momentary need during the course of a bourgeois rite of passage. I can only imagine the longer-term psychological and economic toll of that dependency on an ongoing basis on both the individual and the larger community.

Not surprisingly, many of these payday loan shops are set up in more economically marginalized areas. For example, the area where I work in southeast Calgary is liberally peppered with these places. To my mind, what is even more troubling is the fact that some of these institutions are open 24 hours a day and are graphic examples of what the writer Peter Block jarringly describes as "get-me-through-the-night loan operations." People have expenses and they are desperate. The payday loan operators insist that they are

Do You Remember Party Lines and Real Milk?



By Sharon Austin

"Look at this, Mom," my son said proudly as he showed me the video of his white water rafting trip on his iPhone 4. I watched the small screen to view him and his friends careening through the frothy waves. He showed me still photos of the cabin where they had stayed, then answered a few text messages that had come in.

"That's quite a phone," I said. "What else can it do?"

"Most anything," he said. "I can surf the internet, watch a movie, play games, and have face-time with friends. It also has GPS." I stared at the phone trying to imagine myself using such a complex piece of electronics. I still had a 20-year old wall phone with a cord at my house.

"Can it make me a good cup of coffee?" I said jokingly.

"There's an app for that," Jon said and instantly the screen showed us the nearest Starbucks location and a menu of all the assorted coffee we could buy.

"Let me tell you what phones were like when I was young," I said. He settled back into the couch cushions knowing how I liked to talk about the "old days." When I was young on the farm we didn't have electricity or a phone. I don't think Mom and Dad would have ever gotten a phone but my older brother and sister paid to have the phone line put in when I was 14. They were both grown-up and working a long way from home and they wanted to be able to keep in touch.

The phone was a large brown wooden box that hung on the wall. There was a crank on the side which we would turn to ring the phone into all the houses on the party line. There were 14 people on the party line and we each had our own individual ring, ours being long, short, short, short, short, long. We had to listen carefully, and count the shorts so we didn't answer the wrong ring. When we wanted to use the phone, we had to pick up the receiver and say "line busy" as we shared the line with so many others. Sometimes nosey people would listen in on other people's conversations and a lot of gossip was spread that way. To make a long distance call we had to ring the operator, tell her the number, and she would put the call through. When there was a thunder storm sometimes the lightning

would strike the phone lines and the phone would ring weakly. Mom always told us not to answer the phone during a thunder storm which was probably good advice. There was a story going around that one farmer had answered the phone during a storm and he was blown across the room. His friend asked him "Who on earth was that." The shaken farmer replied, "It must have been my wife!"

A loud ring filled the air and my son was jolted awake. It seems that his phone was an alarm clock too! "Now, how about that coffee," I said.

"Do you want almond milk or skim," he questioned. I thought about putting nuts in my coffee, then about the skim milk. "Skim" I said weakly. The skim milk made my coffee look positively blue and it tasted bitter. "Don't you have any real milk?" I said hopefully.

"Sorry, Nope," he said cheerfully. "There's so many kinds of milk but I just use skim." I thought about the milk in the supermarket: there were whole milk, 2%, 1%, skim, lactose free, cereal cream, and all of it was pasteurized, homogenized, and vitaminized. That reminded me of the joke about the old farmer. A lady from the city had come to buy milk and asked the farmer if the milk was pasteurized. "No," the farmer replied, not understanding, "But the water is, that there creek runs through every pasture in the county."

"Let me tell you what milk was like when I was young," I said.

When I was young on the farm, milk was just milk. We milked the cows twice a day and we drank the whole raw milk right from the cow. It was delicious! We milked the cows by hand into metal pails, then the milk was strained to strain out any dirt or flies that may have fallen into the pail, and poured into the cream separator. I would turn the crank by hand until the separator began to hum. Then I would open the tap and the milk would flow through the spinning disks and cream and skim milk would pour out of the separate taps. The skim milk would pour really fast and a frothy foam would form on the top. I liked to scoop this off and give my dogs hub-caps of foam, which they loved.

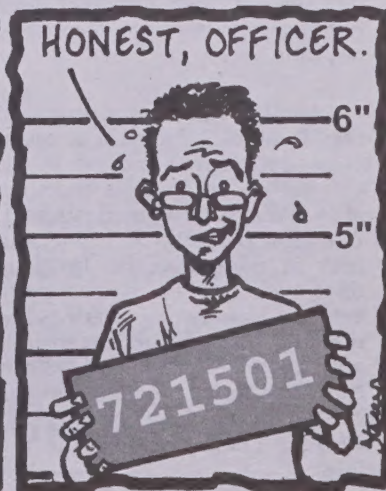
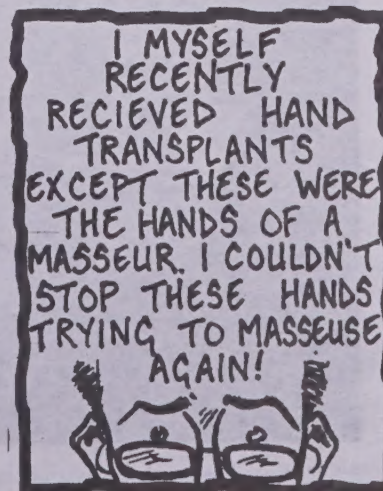
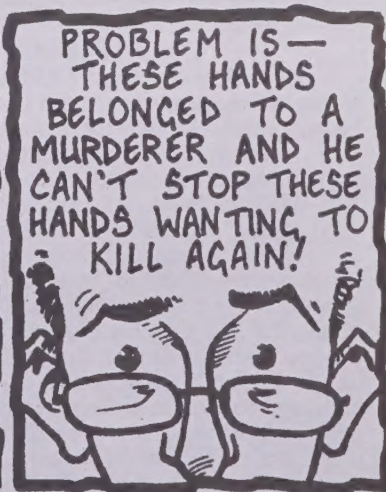
Mom would make cottage cheese out of sour skim milk. The curds would be scooped into a cheesecloth bag to drain and the pigs loved to drink the waigh. The cream was collected in a blue and silver cream can and was sent to the creamery once a week. There they made butter and the most delicious cheese that my sister and I called rubber cheese because it had a bendable quality. We didn't have electricity, so our milk and cream were kept from spoiling in a dug-out space filled with cold water from the pump next to the cow's watering trough. Mom made the best coffee in a perculator and it would stay warm on the wood stove all day. "Perked coffee with fresh milk," I murmured to myself. "Jon, lets use that fancy app and the GPS and find ourselves the nearest coffee shop."

meeting a market need. And, certainly, there is a palpable need when expenses outstrip income. But surely there could be a better, more just and sustainable response to these financial shortfalls? I would hope so.

The Momentum report offers a number of potential solutions. For example, there are policy responses, from all orders of government, and initiatives from the business sector that can provide an array of more sustainable alternatives and supports for people facing time limited financial difficulties. Banks could provide more accessible short-term financial instruments and products (at considerably less interest) than the payday loan institutions. Local government could introduce restrictions on where these places are located in terms of concentration, and the provincial government could "repeal the Alberta Payday Loans Regulation and revert to the federal criminal code interest rate of 60% per year." Policy initiatives could go a long way to solving this problem.

Additionally, measures could be implemented that might reduce the ongoing financial burden on members of the working class (particularly the working poor and the core payday loan demographic of men between the ages of 18 and 34 who earn less than \$30,000 per year). Part of the solution undoubtedly lies in the provision of living incomes and the controlling of expenses, such as through the expansion of the stock of affordable housing.

Overall, however, economics aside, I think it is all about belonging and participation. We can't really authentically belong if structures confine us to the margins. To counter this, we need to support people in their quest for independence, inclusion and community by providing both ladders and safety nets at the local, provincial and national level. This is sorely needed and such a collective approach would benefit everybody. But I wonder if there is any interest at all in that participatory and transformative vision?



House Of Refuge Mission Continues To Serve People In Need



By Linda Dumont

The building that housed the House of Refuge Mission may be gone but the work continues. People still need food, people still need prayer and to hear that God loves them. Every evening at 6 p.m. a crowd gathers on the parking pad of Edmonton Cash Register where faithful volunteers distribute food, clothing, tracts and Bibles. Just two weeks after the building on the corner of 103A Avenue and 95th Street burned down on October 19, 2013, volunteers from the House of Refuge took their ministry outdoors. Tim Choy, who has been their landlord for the past 11 years, offered the use of the parking area and even has a sign made that is placed on the side of the front entrance to his business, Edmonton Cash Register.

Four volunteers have been out on the corner faithfully, even on the coldest days last winter. They have no intention of quitting, even though they are now facing their second winter working outside.

Bill Buck, the president of the House of Refuge mission board, has been a volunteer with them since 1979, and has done everything from building repairs to cooking and cleaning, food pick ups, and even acted as bouncer during the evening evangelistic services. He is always ready to pray with anyone in need. Every evening Bill opens the trunk of his old white car and starts to dole out canned goods, yogurt, and whatever else he has been able to pick up at the Edmonton Food Bank. He regularly picks up food as often as needed at the Food Bank, sometimes three or four times a week. It's heavy work but he has no intention of quitting any time soon.

Another volunteer, who joined the House of Refuge about seven years ago, comes around in his van with food that he picks up at a Sobeys store in Beaumont. Although he works full time and lives in Edmonton, he faithfully does pick ups. He is out every evening except Wednesday, bringing boxes of distressed fruit and vegetables, bread and pastries to the corner where he places the boxes on the cement parking pad so people help themselves to the food



By Linda Dumont

People line up every evening at 6 p.m. to get food handed out by volunteers from the House of Refuge Mission.

Rosalie, treasurer for the House of Refuge board for the past four years, also works full time, but she is still out on the street corner nearly every night, bringing grocery bags that she distributes so people can carry home their food and always having a kind word for the people.

Pastor Bob Vandergrift, vice president of the House of Refuge Mission board, has been working in street ministry for the past 25 years. He is known on the street as the comic book man because he carries tracts in the form of small comic books, as well as the Bible in the King James version. Bob comes out nearly every day, continuing the work of the House of Refuge through handing out the gospel

tracts and Bibles, praying with people, and distributing clothing - shoes, gloves, coats, etc from the trunk of his car.

Sometimes they are joined by people who want to help by bringing sandwiches, other food or clothing to be given out, or just coming to help out with the distribution and to talk to the people who gather.

As winter approaches, there is a need for warm clothing, and blankets. There have been people who volunteered to bring food, but due to strict health board regulations, any food given out has to be prepared in a kitchen that has passed the health code

requirements. The City health inspector made a number of visits to the corner to ensure that this regulation is respected.

The search for a new building to house the work of the House of Refuge continues, but to date all efforts to purchase or lease a building have been blocked by the City and the local community. Tim Choy, who owned the building that burned down, has attempted to buy several properties, and has even considered rebuilding, but the lot where the old building stood is not zoned for commercial use. An offer by a local church to share their building by having the House of Refuge use their basement was blocked by the local McCauley community and the City. The church backed out when they were threatened with legal action if they let the House of Refuge in because the local businesses did not want a food ministry for the economically disadvantaged in their neighbourhood. Because the whole area is being redeveloped, with the Boyle Renaissance Project in Boyle Street, and the new Stadium to the northwest, there is nothing available in the inner city.

If you would like to help, call Bob at 780 465-4966 or simply drop by the street corner any evening at 6 p.m. There is a need for food staples and clothing as well as blankets and tarps for those who are sleeping outside.

Donations can also be dropped off at Linda Dumont's home at 9533-106A Avenue. Call 780 428-0805 to arrange a time.



By Linda Dumont

Bill Buck has been with the mission since 1979.

Community Garden planted on lot where House of Refuge Mission stood

By Linda Dumont

Nearly a year after the House of Refuge Mission was destroyed by fire, the lot on the corner of 103A Avenue and 95 Street, where the mission stood, has become a community garden for local people to come and pick free vegetables.

Thim Choy, who owns the lot, planted most of the garden himself, and paid a homeless man to plant the potatoes. The garden also has rows of radishes, beets, carrots, peas, beans and cucumbers as well as colourful flowers. People help themselves to the vegetables.



By Thim Choy

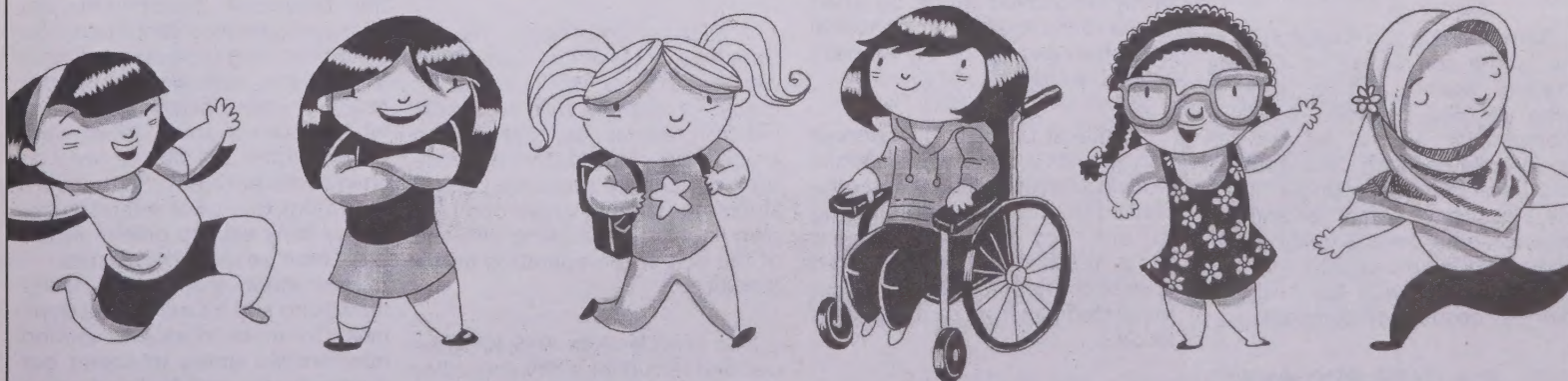
People who live in the community come to pick vegetables in the garden.



By Linda Dumont

Thim Choy stands in front of a large blackboard where people can share their thoughts on the subject: Before I Die.

Daughters' Day Celebration Honours 12 Women



By Jim Gurnett

Daughters Day is a community initiative to highlight the importance of the daughters in all our lives – every girl and woman is a daughter – and to support the flourishing of communities committed to an end to all discrimination and to stopping human rights abuses against women. On Sept. 6 at Edmonton's City Hall 12 Alberta women will be honoured as Daughters of the Year as the highlight of the third annual Daughters Day celebration.

ASN founder and editor Linda Dumont will be one of those women. Linda has been a key part of the story of street newspapers in Alberta for over 20 years as a vendor, writer, editor, and activist. She created Alberta Street News nearly 11 years ago and her commitment has meant that hundreds of people have been able to earn income with dignity by selling the paper and tens of thousands of readers have encountered news and views

never found in the mainstream media.

Paula Kirman, editor of the Boyle McCauley News, is also one of the women being honoured in the category of Human Rights. Kirman has been honoured before with a Peace prize, and is recognized for sharing her music and as a freelance Communications Professional. The Daughters Day celebration

begins at 12:30 with an information fair and the program begins at 2 PM. The keynote speaker is Dr. Jodi Abbott of NorQuest College and entertainment includes the Inner Voice choir as well as Maria Dunn and Tommy Banks.

For more information, visit www.daughters-day.com.

Leduc's Mayor Is An Agent Of Change

By John Zapantis

When Greg Kriskche's out there wearing his biker helmet sporting shades and dressed in a black leather jacket riding his Harley Davidson in the Ride for Dad cancer fundraiser, or the Johnson's Ms Bike Tour, while also volunteering as a keynote speaker, one thing for sure - he's not your typical biker whom you would commonly find riding around with a group of bikers.

When not raising money for a good cause, the City of Leduc's Mayor Greg Kriskche is hard at work in his office at Civic Hall trying to find ways to raise money for the many future projects that the citizens of his city demand that makes his job the more challenging, day to day.

Mayor Greg Kriskche wouldn't be where he is today if it wasn't for the supportive upbringing and happy childhood he was blessed to have experienced while growing up in Leduc, Alberta.

Born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, he is the son of an Air Canada station agent and a mother who juggled between being a homemaker and a retailer. He is the eldest, with two younger brothers and one younger sister. He is also happily married and has one son who owns a heating and air conditioning company and one daughter, who with her husband owns a construction company.

In a recent interview with ASN, Kriskche elaborated on the influence his parents had on him in becoming a productive and successful citizen. Kriskche said, "When it came to my dad, I think what he provided to me was the importance of friendships and relationships. Really that defined him. Everybody knew him and everybody respected him and he would help anybody when they needed it, so really he built relationships with people. I think that taught me a valuable lesson and work ethic. He was a hard worker.



Greg Kriskche

By Theresa Walsh Cooke

Leduc Mayor Greg Kriskche inside his office at Leduc Civic Hall.

My mom, she taught me maybe protocol, grace and respect for people. That's what she taught me as a loving mom." While a lot of kids his age, were indulging in reckless activities, when not hitting the books, the young high school student was hard at it involved in various high school activities that would one day help shape his character, preparing him for the working world.

Kriskche said, "I was the president of Teen Time, which was our students' union. I was part of the debating club. I was part of the chess club and the radio club. So relationships were really a part of my life. I loved sports. So when I went to university, I took physical education and I took my master's there as well."

While at university he worked part time as a cargo worker. While studying for his master's degree, he studied physical education hoping to one day find employment as a teacher. Kriskche faced unpredictable roadblocks that prevented him from continuing his studies.

Married, with another child on the way, his wife suggested he get a real job, so that he could bring the real bread and butter to their door. Kriskche said, "Physical education is mainly made up of people who are extroverts, because of sports and things. They are extroverts and that fits in with who I was. Then a couple of years with my masters, I didn't write my thesis, but I did all the course work for my masters, but then I had one child on the way. Then my wife finally said, "You know what, you need to get a real job."

Despite completing his master's degree he wasn't successful in finding employment for his specialized training, though he did finally advance into full time work at Air Canada where he worked part time. He continued to work at Air Canada for another 17 years. While strongly committed to working for the reputable airline company, Kriskche slowly moved up the productive work ladder, receiving several promotions. He went from being promoted to the manager of the Ramp and Commissary, then was in charge of operating passenger service and later promoted to airport manager for a short period of time.

With an impressive, resume from his success at Air Canada, he went on to find work as an executive assistant with Northwest Industries for almost a year. After a year had elapsed, the province then decided on privatizing liquor stores, so he went on to open his own liquor store, making him one of the first of ten operating in the province.

Two years later, in 1995, Kriskche decided to run for a city councillor in the next Leduc civic election would be the right thing to do. Kriskche elaborates on his practical reasons for running for city councillor. Kriskche said, "I first got elected in 1995. What happened is I wasn't happy with what I was hearing through the newspapers as to what was happening in Leduc. I know there were things just happening, mostly fiscally that I wasn't happy about. You know I'm a lifer in Leduc. I'm going to be here forever. I had two choices. I could continue to bitch, read the newspapers, then bitch, or I could do something. So I decided that if

I wanted a change, I had to be the agent of change!"

While running in his 1st campaign to get elected as a first term city councillor, his strategy was to sell voters on bringing the civic deficit down. Kriskche explains the strategy that convinced voters that year that Leduc was in a serious financial disposition. Kriskche said, "They said, we had \$6,000,000 in reserves, but really \$2,000,000 of that was actually funded. The rest was just on paper. In other words, we had gone through two years of the city running a deficit and if you run three years of deficits in a row, the provincial government can take you over as a community. So it was evolving more around fiscal things. How were we running our reserves. How efficient were we in what we were doing. What were our priorities and do we need to change the priorities? So these are the things that I was interested in. It was fairly easy to govern in the first three years, - the answer to everything that people asked for was no and it's easy if you don't have to make decisions around how are we going to spend our money, because we had no money."

His election campaign to successfully get his message across to voters got him elected as a 1st term city councillor. By the end of his 1st term as councillor he managed to help get the civic deficit under control while also maintaining relations with various home builder associations. Kriskche said, "By the end of the first term, we had actually turned things around, so that we had \$4 million and a half dollars in reserves. We were on more solid financial footing. You know we did some things like, if you

want to be able to grow, you need to be involved in the organizations that are all about growth, like the Home Builder's Association, and the Developer's Association. If we wanted to be able to develop commercial and industrial land, we had to be aggressive in how we marketed that land. So those are kind of the things we did in the first term."

Krischke was always a believer in not making promises he couldn't keep. Krischke said, "If you saw my campaign literature, I never made stupid promises, because then you are at risk if circumstances change that you can not fulfill them. So I was very careful to ensure I'd talk about the types of things that we had to do. We were growing rapidly, but if we're growing rapidly, it just doesn't mean that it's an unlimited well of money. Where are we going to put our priorities? How are we going to maintain the lifestyle that we like without having to much increase on taxes. I'm a believer that if you need to raise taxes, you raise taxes. It's the same as at home. You might get a raise. You pay more taxes federally.

One of the very first breakthroughs Krischke and city council take great pride in was the successful business relationships he's developed with various home developers that helped encourage more economic growth for Leduc. Krischke said, "When you build relationships, people trust what you say. We had a very much hidden jewel out here in Leduc. People thought we were a long ways from Edmonton. In reality we're only 15 minutes away from Edmonton, but people thought we were a big distance away. So they really didn't look at us, but when builders started saying, Yeah, we're going to buy land, so that the builders can build. Then they helped become a sales force for us, because they were trying to attract people to come buy their homes in their developments and it took off from there."

Success in development encouraged the building of 25 housing units in Leduc. Since first elected as a city councillor in 1995 Krischke was re-elected two more times as a councillor with each term lasting 3 years each consecutively from 1995-1998, 1998-2000, and 2000-2003. In 2004 Krischke ran for mayor and was successfully elected to office. He has been re-elected three more times from 2004-2007, 2007-2010, 2010-2013. Since the provincial rules have recently changed Mayors now run for four year terms as opposed to previous years. This is Krischke's fourth term as Mayor of Leduc.

Mayor Krischke takes great pride in some of the more important contributions he's helped make while assisted by his past and present city council colleagues. One of the many contributions that helped to make a difference included the previous expansion of the Leduc Recreation Centre (LRC) costing the city \$50,000,000 to build and complete in 2007.

The mayor and city council borrowed \$37 and a half million for construction of the centre. Krischke said, "It was very close to an election. So some would say, we were foolish, because we would run the risk that if people didn't like it, they would just vote us out. We all believed - all of us on council knew it was the right thing to do for the community. We felt we had the fiscal capacity to be able to do it."

The newly expanded centre occupies 309,000 square ft. of various space for activities and services, including 3 indoor arenas, swimming pool, leisure pool, two field houses, running track, fitness centre, Boy's and Girl's Club and an outreach school. In 2012 while in his fourth term as Mayor, Krischke and city council agreed to establish a Fire Master Plan for the construction of a new fire hall. Construction for the fire hall started in late August. The new hall will cost \$10,000,000 to build.

When asked by ASN if homelessness existed in Leduc, the Mayor wasn't ignoring the realities of what really exists in his own backyard. Krischke said, "I think any community would be lying if they said that there was no homelessness in their community. We're not rampant. It isn't rampant homelessness here. There are some people who are. There are so many definitions of homelessness, but there's maybe a few, but there will be the couch surfers. There will be other circumstances where people are living on the margins. So we have an organization called the Leduc Emergency Shelter Association, who helps out in some of those situations and in situations of abuse to offer emergency accommodation."

The mayor's proud city also offers not only an array of helpful services to Leduc's homeless, but a variety of other services to assist people living on the margins. Krischke said, "We have a very strong food bank. Part of the mandate of our food bank is to find out where the problems are with the people and why they're coming to the food bank. Then in a lot of cases, they will send them over to our family and community support services, or they'll send them to social services onto churches, onto the Hub."

When asked by ASN if Leduc has any opposition towards Edmonton wanting to expand south towards Leduc, the mayor was more than accommodating in his answer. Krischke said, "They can go in whatever direction they want to go in, the same kind of place that Leduc wants to go. We also believe that Edmonton has a right to grow, the same as Leduc has a right to grow. If there's more people coming and we can't put them anywhere, what are we going to do, tell them to go to Spruce Grove!"

The mayor knows that it's not up to Leduc to decide if Edmonton can come out

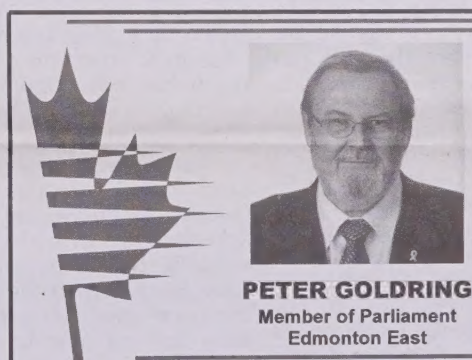
southwards to expand, but up to the County of Leduc that has the jurisdiction in calling the shots. Krischke said, "It isn't our land. It's Leduc County land. They are the ones to discuss it, but the Municipal Government Board at the end of the day are the ones that rule what land changes hands. They've been pretty good at not allowing one to be a winner and one to be a loser. So Edmonton maybe asking for 38,000 acres right now, but they may not get all that. They may only get only half of that, or two thirds of it."

Other projects that the mayor and city council have off the ground and are currently under construction are the Splash Park, known as Spray Park that will cost \$850,000 to build. The project will sit on one acre of land. It will be a spouting, giant fountain, which kids can run in and out of to cool off during the hot summers.

The mayor's council has also plans to expand and double the city's library, costing \$7,000,000. The mayor of Leduc is content with his city council colleagues and the important contributions that have been made during his long term commitments as both a three term councillor and 4 term mayor.

Krischke said, "You know I don't like to say I have rose coloured glasses, but I don't think I've ever had any heavy battles. I think because we are always thinking about how well our citizens react. Have we given them enough information? Have we communicated enough as to what we want to do that we really haven't had any huge battles. I think not everybody is happy with every decision that you make. People know that, but if you do things with integrity and you do things at the end of the day, you believe it's going to make a better community. Then you move forwards and do it."

He's also had his previous battles with prostate cancer, which he's recovered from. He was 58 when he was diagnosed for the disease and received treatments. The prostate cancer was successfully removed during surgery. Since that time he's given back to the community, while showing his appreciation for his recovery, and continues to participate every year by helping to raise funds for prostate cancer by riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle in the Ride for Dad. He's also been involved as a participant and a keynote speaker and ride fundraiser at the annual Johnson's MS Bike Tour since June of 1995.



PETER GOLDRING
Member of Parliament
Edmonton East

St. Barbara's Orthodox Cathedral: Plaque Unveiling

On August 22nd, 2014, there was a "wave" of unveilings across Canada of 100 plaques at 11am (local time), moving from east to west marking the 100th anniversary of Canada's first national interment operations of 1914-1920. The unveilings occurred in churches and cultural centers, local museums and other public venues.

For some time, I engaged in correspondence and conversations with the CTO project leader, Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk, to have St. Barbara's Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Edmonton participate in this momentous event in history.

Founded in 1902 by Father Jacob Korchinsky, St. Barbara's is historically Ukrainian. A simple wooden church that was replaced in 1960 by a beautiful ecclesiastical edifice that stands today; a vision of Father John Margitich, the parish priest of St. Barbara's for more than 35 years. This building designed by architect Nicholas Flak with picturesque dome, crowned by a triple bar cross symbolic of Orthodox churches around the world, is known by all in Edmonton, not just by those of the Orthodox faith community.

In 1902, the Orthodox Russian Greek Catholic Church of North America was incorporated by the Parliament of Canada and proceeded to develop numerous rural parish churches as well as St. Barbara's Cathedral in Edmonton. For the newly arrived Orthodox faithful in the late 19th and early 20th centuries the only choice of church was the Russian Greek Orthodox Church. Today the Very Reverend Sergey Kipriyanovich is the parish priest at St. Barbara's.

St. Barbara's is the church that I married Lorraine Taschuk and where I return to regularly during the more than 39 years of our marriage. Our children, Corinna and Kristina, were Christened here, our daughter was married here and our three granddaughters Katelin, Alexandra and Eleanor were also Christened here. St. Barbara's will forever be rooted in our family legacy.

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We Must Stop Making Treating Children As Objects And Scape Goats



By Maria B

The objectifying of children has been done in our culture for generations and I feel that it is of GREAT importance to realize that if we want to raise emotionally healthy children first we have to have their awareness and to take the responsibility on how we are failing our children. Then we can make the kind of blueprint where the child is recognized as an incredible human being deserving to be respected, heard and guided in order to become the kind of human being that we can be proud of. It all start with us as parents. We must realize that the old toxic system is creating problems in our children's lives and in our society. One quote that describes objectification is: Children should be seen and not heard!

I have witnessed parents that through teaching this to their children hold incredibly high expectations from a little being that is struggling to understand this adult that seems to get in his/her face constantly and ends up with a whole lecture of why he/she shouldn't do that. Children ask themselves, why yesterday was I allowed to do this and today, I am punished for doing it, it is senseless.

While on holidays in Mexico, I caught my nephew playing with a lighter. As a responsible adult I said to him: "Stop touching dangerous things that are not yours." The child dropped the lighter and looked at me as if I was from Mars. The judging part of me right away thought, why is this child allowed to touch dangerous things like a lighter? Then I thought they might not be allowed to touch it but why did the parents leave this dangerous object where children can get a hold of it? In the mean time the five year old child took a hold of his bearings and asked me? "Is that English words?" Suddenly, I felt so totally ridiculous. If I talk to a Mexican child in English, how did I expected the child to understand me and obey me? I think this child was brilliant for knowing the

difference between Spanish and another language. This example clearly demonstrates that if we talk in garble to our children, we are only mixing them up and making more harm than good. Without underestimating the mind of the child because children "learn" to make some sense of what their parents are trying to tell them, but why not learn to use clear and short messages that are compatible with the age of the child.

In one interaction with the father of my other nephew, when the father was frustrated with his child, I told him: "Your five years old son is very intelligent and you and your wife have to learn how to communicate with him effectively." It was incredible how this five year old was able to respond in such an effective manner to his parents, telling them "Not to speak rude to him" and how they wrecked his holiday by not taking him to the place he wanted to go. When we arrived at the scene the child was desolate, crying by a pillar. The mother was frustrated, sitting on a bench and the father was standing far from the drama feeling guilty.

As parents we have not learned how to acknowledge children's feelings and if we are unable to acknowledge them how can we validate them. As parents we have not learned how to take the team approach but we surely have learned how to walk from each other and the source of the problem. I feel that we have been parenting in the darkness and repeating the terrible legacies that our parents left in our lives. It is time to learn how to parent a child in a way that the child will feel empowered and use his potentials to the maximum. So far our inadequacy has only served to punish children through physical, emotional and verbal abuse and we still expect for them to develop into incredible human beings. That in itself it is a very high expectation.

One university professor has a brilliant explanation of Objectification. University of Chicago Professor Martha C. Nussbaum classified Objectification into the following categories: Instrumentality - Instrumentality is when a person is treated like a tool for another person's own purposes. Denial of autonomy - Denial of autonomy is when a person is denied the right to make decisions for themselves. Inertness - An Assumption of Inertness describes when a person is treated as if they lack the capacity to act for themselves. Ownership - Ownership describes a condition where one person is treated as if they are owned by, or is a slave to, the other person. Fungibility - Fungibility describes a condition where one person is treated as

if they are dispensable or can be traded or discarded by another person. Violability - Violability describes a situation where a person is treated as if it is ok to hurt, or destroy them. Denial of subjectivity - Denial of subjectivity describes a condition where a person is treated as if there is no need to show concern for their feelings.

Acts of objectification typically enrich the perpetrator at the expense of the victim. What the perpetrator fails to recognize is the cost to himself or herself in the form of long term personal security. People who objectify others build their own form of solitary confinement, knowing that by sacrificing the trust and good will of others, they are vulnerable to eventual demise of their power. Dictatorships generally last for years or decades but typically collapse very quickly. Objectification is common among people who suffer from Narcissistic Personality Disorder and Antisocial Personality Disorder. Objectification also occurs among people who suffer from Histrionic Personality Disorder and Borderline Personality Disorder.

Objectification is normally a form of prioritization where the needs and concerns of other individuals are ranked below the needs and concerns of the personality-disordered individual. As such, objectification is rarely emotional in nature.

Being a parent does not mean that I own my children and I have the right to violate them in any form or shape. What it means is that I am responsible for their physical, mental and spiritual development. It is my duty to make my home the kind of environment that enables them to thrive and develop into incredible human beings. When children grow up in a nurturing environment, they learn to cherish their uniqueness and through unconditional love and acceptance they begin to develop their self esteem, their self image and their self worth.

The sad evidence is that thousands and thousands of parents that have been victims of abuse in their childhood are using their dysfunctional learning and applying it to raise their own children. Therefore we have "victims" raising children and passing their destructive legacy of abuse to their children creating more victims through the dysfunctional traits of their own families.

Children that are exposed to traumatic events that include physical, sexual, and emotional abuse develop a range of psychological problems. These effects might appear unrecognizable, but they have a way of appearing through a range of psychological problems such as phobias, behavioural problems, depression, anxiety and panic attacks.

It is time to rise above and start taking the role that we are meant to have in order to protect our innocent children. We must never stand by and accept any form of child abuse. We must become vigilant in opposing the exploitation of children through

pageants, commercials, and any media form that tends to sexualize or expose our children to the degradation of children. We must guard their childhood and ensure that their development is done in a healthy manner.

It is a fact that the natural development of a child will be affected by environmental experiences. The events can either have "positive or negative" consequences. Continuous abuse in "any" form creates stress through the flight and fight response and become reactive to any believe of dangers. At the slightest noise or threat, or even just the sense of the presence of the abusive person will create incredible fear, anxiety and complete helplessness. The child is constantly on high alert causing their heart rate to increase. Other ways that affect children are freezing and dissociative response. Physical flight or fight is impossible for an infant, toddler or a young person. Freezing and dissociation become their own survival modes, this child will be in a constant state of fear, hyper vigilance, aggression or complete surrender. These children will be either starving for acceptance or erecting walls to preserve their sense of safety.

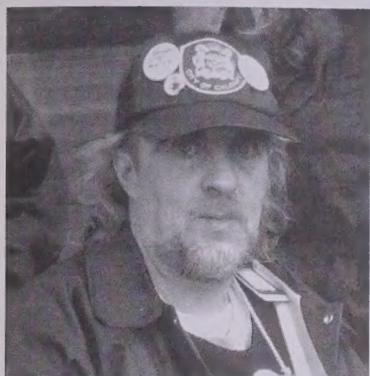
Knowing the detrimental effects on children, it is unconscionable that the abuse of children is not given the attention and the help that they rightly deserve. We are giving a blind eye to the horrors that children go through at the hands of the people that are supposed to protect them and keep them safe. This is domestic terrorism disguised as parenting. And when parents put their children through the same hell they went through or worst it becomes a true legacy of "evilness".

In my case as an adult survivor the legacy of abuse has been broken but not completely. My children grew up with spankings (not beatings) and raising my voice. Now that I am aware of the "time out system" I wish I had done it because even yelling and having high expectation on children tends to denigrate them through our actions affecting their self image. What we do to enhance ourselves in our status as a parent only serves to denigrate our children.

The residue of my abuse at the hands of my father has become my loyal companion and the memories have left such a deep impact compounded by the feelings of shame, guilt and not being good enough. When you are growing up you know that for every step you take, there is a kind of blockage that is formed through incredible "fear" and even when you want to defy this fear there is something with incredible strength holding you back and standing in a way of what you want to accomplish. Every day I am learning how to embrace parts of my past and one thing I have been able to learn is that NO ONE can take "our worth" as a human being and that is up to us to teach OTHERS how to treat us.

Children are our future and we are doing so little to protect them, rise above and become the protectors of children.

ROB'S CORNER IN CALGARY



By Robert Champion

Rob's great trip to Vancouver

First time in about 11 years that I've been to Vancouver. Went by Greyhound. It brought back memories. Lorna and I used to make the trip down to Vancouver to visit her mom and our daughter Lori in North Delta, BC. It was an emotional trip for me. Left on the 14th of July at around 7:30 p.m. Got to Vancouver at around 8 the next morning Pacific time. Met up with Sue along the sky train route; she made arrangements for me to meet up with her friend Charlene, whom I stayed with near Granville Island. Needed to get away. Had a great time. Got to hang out with lovely ladies. Charlene took me to

Gastown. Got some souvenirs.

Booked my ticket two weeks in advance for \$152. It was a pretty good trip. I enjoyed it. Love traveling through the Rockies even at night. Got some great pics with the disposable camera I bought before I left. These two ladies I met through a friend, Bob Furgeson, here in Kensington six years ago. Charlene was nice enough to put me up in her small bachelor apartment (BC Housing). She lives on the 8th floor. A great view. Took both Charlene and Sue out for meals. Found a great restaurant called Hole in the Wall. Got a great breakfast for \$5.25. Charlene and I helped out Charlene with groceries. Gave her \$80 plus \$10 for a cab. Sue took me for Chinese. It was good to see her again. We really started connecting after Lorna, my wife, passed away. Went to a couple of pubs along Granville Street.

Rob's Shorts

A random act of kindness goes a long way to making someone's day a little brighter.

Street papers are a good investment. Helps people to appreciate the money they are given, knowing they earned it. Teaches them the value of money and gives them better social skills.

Find that many people are inverted, plugged into the virtual world and tuned out. Many people see us as, who knows, just another panhandler and really sad. We buy our papers at a cost of 50 cents and sell them on the street basically for donations. They are distributed monthly.

Met many good people

My experiences selling a street papers

Standing in extreme weather, determined to keep on trying, not giving up. Relying on my sales to make ends meet. Meeting people and making new friends. Started with Our Voice in 1994 distributed out of the Calgary Urban Project Society. We had 40 vendors. Were like family and had a strong support system being tied to such an organization right through to 2010 with the Calgary Street Talk. Miss our get togethers, anniversary parties, barbecues and picnic.

Pay it Forward

I'm scared of the unknown, but don't fear it. Worried about the future but don't let it bother me or let it stress me out. Afraid, fearful I may spend the rest of my life

alone, but at the same time not stressed about the possibility. Happy for what I do have – a roof over my head, a safe environment, good neighbours, a clean well kept up building, get togethers in the family resource room, central to the downtown core, shopping and good bus service. A great area for bike riding, which is my main source of transport.

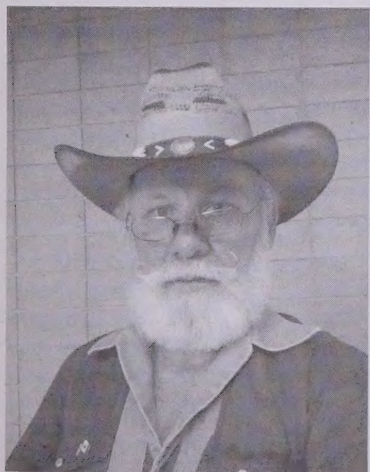
Rob's say of the Day

Happiness isn't easily achieved. Can come from within. Real happiness doesn't come from material things, that's only short term. True happiness comes from the heart, not from the wallet.

Happiness

Happiness, when I'm riding my bike. Happiness when I'm listening to my favourite music- classical rock. Satisfied when I've completed my articles for Alberta Street News. Proud that I'm a part of the street newspaper movement. Happiest when I'm around good friends. Glad I'm near retirement. Scared that I may be alone for the rest of my life at the same time happy to be where I am at this stage of my life.

From Calgary to Glasgow, Scotland, and back



By Rory Gaudon

Dear Readers, the time finally arrived for me to prepare for the INSP Conference and travel to Glasgow. I decided to purchase some dress pants and shirts. It was definitely time to change from track suits to casual wear, and formal dress. It's kind of funny to me that after 25 years, I realized I never seemed to buy any type of pants or dress shirts. It gave me an insight that there is lots of work for me to do, too better myself as a man on a mission. That will continue to represent, sell, and distribute Alberta Street Newspapers. In the future, my new

outlook will help me establish, and present myself as an author, writer, actor, and power speaker. After going through numerous stores in Calgary's Chinook Center, Winner's and Wal Marts all over Calgary, including Airdrie. I managed to accumulate 3 sets of shirts, dress pants and one pair of track pants, because old habits are hard to break. After shopping for clothes, and purchasing them brand new, there was a spiritual awaking of happiness for me. It's going to be great, being more fashionable and noticed as a well groomed man once again.

From frequently reading and studying this book for the second time, "The Law of Success" by Napoleon Hill, it was time for me to practice some of this great man's philosophy, and his personal friends shared views, which were and still are inspiring men and woman on life in North America and throughout the World. This book has changed my life and beliefs. So I purchased a copy to give to Zoe as a token of friendship and hopefully this knowledge will be shared wisdom amongst many peers in Scotland and throughout the Globe. Several months prior, I established communications on the internet with Zoe Greenfield the Project

Manager, who responded with an email with what type of workshops I would like to attend, and 15 pages of information reference transportation to and from the airports, sightseeing tours and pages of what will be happening during the Conference.

These were my plans and goals for the first week of August for the trip to Glasgow, Scotland, and the 20th anniversary of the INSP Conference. The first day August 12th there was streetaper training and an optional tour of The Big Issue offices. The reason for me going overseas was to attend specifically these Seminar's to learn about Business Development (for Fundraisers, directors and managers), and Sales and Vendor Recruitment. Then there were 3 days of work shop's with conferences during the 13, 14 and 15th with coffee, lunch and dinners, with numerous guest speakers from past and present in The Street Newspaper business. At night there were optional social gatherings to meet and greet my fellow colleagues. There are also 300 additional VIP's that attended and Media from around the world. My goal was to focus and not miss out on any opportunity to better the lives of my colleagues, who wish to

sell the street newspapers in the future in Alberta and throughout the world. There will be more information about my experiences in the following issues. After the 20th anniversary INSP conference was over there were 5 days of vacation for me to explore Scotland. Zoe provided all of the delegates, and me with pages upon pages of places to explore. So I decided to take over my Gnome Costumes, balloons and some short stories, for a possible chance for me to perform in Glasgow and The Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Then during my sightseeing excursions on bus tours, take photos of myself exploring the Scottish Highlands in costume. My Dwarfs' World is my life now and the time has come for me to focus on it, on a full time basis. I will post more on my journey and travels in the up and coming issues. Thank you everyone for your generous sponsorship and making my dreams come true.



THEIR STORY - NICK DIKLICH OF CALGARY



Photo By Aaron MacCullam

Nick Diklich (left) enjoys a cup of coffee with friends at a local Tim Hortons.

By Nick Diklich

Hello to all my friends and customers that greet me on the corner of 7th Avenue and 8th Street SW, Calgary.

It has been eight years of laughter and good times of meeting new people. Some people say we need a tape recorder as my voice gives

out saying hello to people daily. I enjoy it when children give me a Hi Five! Their smiles make my day. I am grateful for all Calgarians that take the time to see how I am doing.

Customers have brought me tea and soup from Tim Horton's. As well, the staff at Tim Horton's treat me very good, and with respect.

The manager, Xavier, puts items aside that people have given me like a winter jacket. The women at the probation office take the time to say Hi to me. They always treat me with respect – and threaten me to behave!

The staff at the Sandman send me tourists. I welcome them to the city and give them directions. I also

attend Calgary Association of Self Help. I have been a member there since 1985 and I have over 7000 hours of volunteer work there. The staff have supported me with my mental illness and other problems that I have had in my life.

I thank you for your continued support, love and respect.

Editor's Note

It is very unusual for vendors to go to INSP conferences where editors and publishers meet to talk shop and discuss vendor management, etc. Unfortunately I was again unable to attend due to lack of funding and I was unable to find any sponsorship towards air fare and expenses. The next conference will be in Seattle in August, 2015, so I am hoping to be able to attend that one. The INSP organizers contacted me to say that most papers send their editor!

- Linda Dumont

MISSION

Edmonton Street News Society provides a voice, employment and social support to those who need these, and communications perspective dealing with poverty and social justice, by education and communication activities, including publishing a street newspaper.

Values/Beliefs/Guiding Principles

We believe in being inclusive and encouraging. We believe that human rights are fundamental to living together. We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to earn and control their money. We believe in journalistic and organizational professionalism and integrity. We believe the public needs to know about the issues of poverty and social justice. We value community and connecting with others. We value passion and determination. We believe everyone deserves the opportunity to learn, develop and use communication skills.

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For more information about ASN, Call Managing Editor Linda Dumont at 780-428-0805

We are facing changes in management. More information in our October issue.